

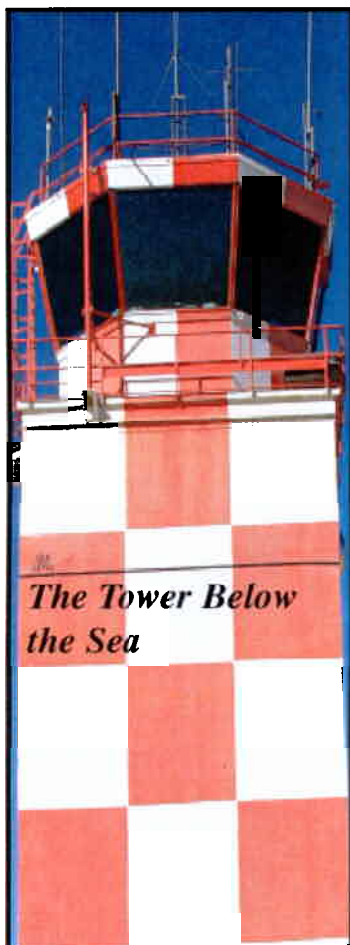


# The Sandpaper

Volume 5, Issue 3

"Pearl of the Desert"

JANUARY 2002



*The Tower Below the Sea*

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Photo By JO2 Carmichael Yepes

## The Blues are Back and Ready For 2002



A Blue Angel's FA-18 returns after practicing aerobatic maneuvers above NAF El Centro.

## NAF to Host First Air Show after 911

**By JO2 Carmichael Yepes**

*Staff Writer*

The skies of El Centro roared once again as the New Year brought the Navy's Flight Demonstration Team, the Blue Angels, back for their winter stay.

The FA-18 Hornets, along with Fat Albert, left Pensacola Naval Air Station and arrived at Naval Air Facility El Centro Saturday Jan. 5, where the team will remain for training until their first Air Show of the season in March.

"The move was great," said LTJG Mike Blankenship, Public Affairs Officer for the Blue Angels. "There's 70 degree weather and great skies out here, which is why we keep

coming back."

NAF El Centro has been the winter training ground for the Blue Angels for the past 56 years and hosts the first air show of the year.

This will be NAF El Centro's 32<sup>nd</sup> air show and the public is invited to attend the action-packed show Saturday, March 9. The theme for this year's air show will be "Defenders of Freedom."

Besides the Blue Angels, other civilian and military aerobatic performers are scheduled. Detailed information on performers will be released at a later date.

Last year more than 40,000 spectators enjoyed the performance, and this year the

number is expected to increase. Concession stands will be available and static displays will be on hand to entertain visitors.

Because of our remote location, one of the benefits for visitors is the low automobile traffic within the area. There is no congestion to contend with here where the sun and the Blue Angels spend the winter season.

The Air Show is open to the public with parking and admission free. It is a good idea to bring your own chairs, sunscreen and earplugs.

For more information call the NAF El Centro Public Affairs Office at (760) 339-2519, or log on to our website at [www.nafec.navy.mil](http://www.nafec.navy.mil)



*Gym expansion almost complete*

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*Mass Casualty Drill takes place*

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*Color Guard Meets Olympic Torch*

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# From The Captain

Welcome back from the holidays. I hope everyone had a good visit with family or friends and made it back safely and well rested. We have already entered into the busiest time of the year for NAFEC. With the inclement weather season across the United States, we have detachments visiting us from everywhere to enjoy our good flying weather and the great hospitality we always show them. Let's keep up the good work and make sure they come back to visit and train again.

Safety should be at the forefront of every endeavor. We just conducted a Safety Belt survey and I see a glaring failure to follow rules. Wearing

a Safety belt is NOT an option; it is the LAW on military bases. The real alarm from this study is the high percentage of personnel in government vehicles not using their safety belts. In the future, I am asking that all violators have tickets issued for failure to use seat belts and failure to obey a lawful order. This will bring military personnel to Captain's Mast. For civilians we will look at a Title 18, removal of authority to enter the base, which will affect their jobs. This is serious. Start using seat belts for what they are intended.

The Chief of Naval Operations recently held a Task Force Excel Board at the



Pentagon. This board has matured into a Navy-wide change effort, with the Sailor as the "Center of Gravity" and improved mission performance as the bottom line. The initial meeting focused on the development of a national career plan as characterized by the "5 vector" model:

1. Professional development

2. Personal development
3. Leadership and Professional Military Education
4. Certifications and qualifications
5. Performance

The idea is that the sum of these efforts will eliminate career roadblocks. It will make Sailors employable, not just employed, and institutionalize covenant leadership. For more information on this forwarding moving process, talk with your department head.

Two more things, the Air Show is only 4 weeks away! We will ALL have to pitch in, as has become our tradition. Don't pass up an opportunity to participate! And second, thanks to all for your charity on the blood drive.

## Valentines



**Fresh Roses  
Stuffed Animals  
And more**

**At the base Exchange**

Teleflora Available will deliver  
any where in the world.

## The Rattler's Report

**By ENS Christopher Crider**

*Strike fighter Wing*

The operational tempo at NAF El Centro has fully ramped up with the start of the New Year.

We started January by hosting the Garudas from VAQ-134. They are an EA-6B expeditionary squadron that has the unique tasking of being shore based while providing Electronic Counter Measure (ECM) support to all branches of the Armed Forces. The training they accomplished here was critical in the preparation for their upcoming deployment.

VFA-125 Rough Raiders, arrived on the heels of the VAQ-134 Detachment. They are the West Coast F/A-18 Fleet

Replacement Squadron (FRS) for Hornet pilots. The pilots arrived from NAS Le Moore to utilize our local facilities, maintenance and great winter weather conditions to practice bombing, carrier landings, and air-to-air combat.

We provided maintenance support and kept their Hornets ready for day and night training. On an average day, the maintenance effort begins at 0700 and doesn't wrap up until 0300.

During this detachment we had the honor of having Commodore Rains pay us a visit. His responsibilities included the administration of all F/A-18s on the West Coast and Japan. This was a great opportunity for us to show how we do business at Strike and for him to see the positive things happening at NAF El Centro.

On another note, we completed the paint project on the A-7 static display next to the Jetmart it was a joint effort with MWR, Strike Fighter and Public Works. ADC St Laurent and AM1 Visita led the task in the painting effort. Thanks to their efforts the aircraft is looking better than ever.

Next month the Desert Rattlers will host the first Super Hornet detachment from the, VFA-122, Flying Eagles. Until next month's report have a great time.

*The Sandpaper* is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense (DoD), or the U.S. Navy and do not imply endorsement thereof.

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# DoD Cops alongside military counterparts

By IT2 Darryl Howlett  
Staff Writer

Security recently welcomed two, new Department of Defense police officers to Naval Air Facility El Centro. Patrolmen Ed Peeples and Mark McGarry arrived at NAF on November 26 and December 17, respectfully.

Before coming to NAF El Centro, Patrolman Peeples worked over two years as a San Diego Transit Enforcement Officer, making sure patrons paid their fare. "I live in San Diego for right now, but if everything works well, my family will be here soon," he said. "I hope to assist (Security) in enforcing the police laws on the base."

Peeples contract with

Security is for 12 months. Peeples said a monetary bonus helped attract him to NAF. "Navy Region Southwest is giving bonuses as incentives to stay here. I was the first officer to receive a bonus," he said. Peeples said NAF El Centro grows on you. "It's pretty neat so far. It's nice compared to some of the bases I've been to," he said.

Patrolman McGarry brings over 8 years of law enforcement experience to NAF. "I spent time as a police officer near NAS Fallon in Nevada and also as a deputy sheriff with another law enforcement agency," he said. "I look forward to integrating with the regular Navy Security Force and perform my duty."



Patrolmen Mark McGarry and Ed Peeples have accepted positions at Security to assist the base's security forces.

Patrolman McGarry also will be looking for a new home for his wife and three children. "So far I like (NAF El Centro)," he said. "I'm coming from a similar area in NAS Fallon."

Lt. Michael Conn

said there remains eight positions for personnel interested in becoming DOD police officers at Naval Air Facility El Centro.

For more information log on to [www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com) or [www.cnrsw.navy.mil](http://www.cnrsw.navy.mil).

## Sailors pocket more money with 2002 pay increase

By YN1 Michael Martin  
Command Career Counselor

The pay/compensation package for 2002 includes a basic pay increase of as much as 10 percent for mid-grade/senior Petty Officers and mid-grade officers.

In addition to hikes in Sea pay, BAH for single shipboard E4 Sailors with over four years of service, and a reduction in BAH out-of-pocket expenses to 11.3 percent

The FY 2002 Defense Budget includes at least a 5% pay raise for all active duty personnel. Combined with a recent advancement cycle in which nearly 30,000 Sailors were advanced, this is great news for naval personnel finding it hard to make ends meet.

For information on your 2002 pay and compensation rates go to <http://www.dfas.mil>

and navigate your way to the military pay section. All of this, combined with increases in GI Bill, higher SRB's for many rates and increased VHA loan guarantee ceilings, make the military an increasingly good bargain in the current tough economy.

For more information on any of these topics, see the NAF Command Career Counselor in Building 214 or call him at x2544.



## From the Housing Department



By Pattie Crew  
Quality Assurance Evaluator

Housing would like to congratulate the Christmas Decorating Contest winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Place Housing – AO2 John and Ashley Cleary

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Housing – AOC Ron and Tami Anderson.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Housing – Lt Lance and Kim Owens.  
CBH, PN3 Andrea Watling.  
RV Park, Lloyd and Simone Mabrey.

The Housing Office has received calls from Housing and CBH residents in regards to service call procedures. Housing residents should make a service call to Brown & Root at 339-2204 for any

maintenance needs. Ask for the service call number if one isn't given and keep it for tracking purpose. The contractor has 5 working days to respond to a routine service call. If there is a question on whether you'll be home or not, ask for an appointment or have Brown & Root call you before they come to your house. Make sure they know your work number!

If Brown & Root needs to order parts, ask them for a time frame and ask them

to call you when the parts come in. Call the service desk and inquire when the job will be completed. If you haven't heard anything in a week, then call the Housing Office.

CBH residents should report service calls to the CBH front desk staff at 337-4935. Brown and Root does a great job taking care of housing and the barracks and with your help we can make the process run smoother. Take care of yourselves and your shipmates.



## Around Base



Strike Fighter completed the painting project on the A-7 Corsair that stands next to the Jet-mart. Cmdr. Wild and Command Master Chief Seay's names were added.



It is that time again! It will take workers about 3 1/2 weeks to finish pruning the mesquite trees on base.



Base residents may now vacuum their vehicles with no problem, thanks to the guys at self help who recently poured a cement slab next to the vacuum at the car wash.

# Gym to add 15-tons of Iron

By **JO2 Carmichael Yopez**

Staff Writer

Sailors at NAF El Centro will soon enjoy a bigger and better fitness facility when the new expansion slated for February is completed.

The expansion is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of February and will include 28 new fitness machines ranging from abdominal workstations to universal fitness machines.

"I think it's going to be fantastic. We are going to have top of the line equipment, Hammer Strength and Life Fitness machines. It's going to be more convenient for all the military and civilian personnel who use the gym," said Laurie Bauer, recreation aid at the fitness center.

"We have an average of about 75 people who use the facility a day. During the winter months that number goes up to one hundred," said J. Espinosa recreation aid at the fitness center.

According to Espinosa, the extension will double the size of the gym and add more than 15-Tons of new weights making it the biggest and best-equipped gymnasium in the Imperial Valley.

The addition will include a new TV screen, speakers for music, weight



Photo by JO2 Carmichael Yopez

Once completed, the fitness center will double the number of fitness machines for its patrons.

trees, dumbbells and bars. "I think it's great they are going to make the gym bigger. I come here about five times a week and sometimes it is too crowded. I also thought it was lacking some equipment, but I've seen some of the new equipment and now I will be able to set-up my workout to another level," said Aviation Machinist's Mate Airman Mathew Golonasky.

"I think it's good they are making it bigger. It is going to help a lot especially when all the squadrons come in, we will have more space," said Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Thomas McCoy, Operations, Weather Division.

"I can't wait to see the new equipment come in."

## Security Welcomes New Bomb Dog

Aldo, only bomb dog in Imperial Valley

By **IT2 Darryl Howlett**

Staff Writer

He's tough. He's rough, and he has four legs. He's the newest member at Naval Air Facility El Centro's Security Department.

Aldo, a 5-year-old German Shepherd, recently made his debut at Security. He replaces Carlo, a Belgium Malinois, who now serves the Naval Region Southwest as a drug narcotic dog.

"We received Aldo from the Southwest Region



Photo by JO2 Carmichael Yopez

MA1 Daniel Eckstrom and his dog Aldo have become good friends.

on December 9," said Master-At-Arms 1st Class Petty

Officer Daniel Eckstrom, who also serves as Security's Kennel Supervisor and the dog's handler. "Aldo is the only bomb dog in the Imperial Valley, so he will assist on mutual aid calls from outside law enforcement."

Eckstrom said Aldo would continue the legacy of fearless police dog at NAF El Centro. "I trained Carlo from April to December to become a narcotics patrol dog," he said. "(Aldo) is certified to find people, bite people, and find explosives."

Aldo joins Security's other patrol dog, Bowie, and his handler, Master-at-Arms 2nd Petty Officer Gary Groesbeck.

## Thrift Shop

OPEN  
TUES & THURS

9 a.m.  
to  
12 p.m.



Big Savings on all  
articles

Ext. 2288



# Mass Casualty Drill takes place

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez  
Staff Writer

There was smoke and injured bodies lying everywhere and within minutes the Fire Department, a helicopter and other rescue agencies arrived. It looked like the scene of a Hollywood



The drill included treating burn victims.

movie set. This was the scenario for the Mass Casualty Drill held at Naval Air Facility El Centro on January 8.

"Today we are having a simulated crop duster crash with an unknown pesticide, or agent involved," said John

Cupell, Training Chief. "The purpose of this drill is to ensure all personnel on base are prepared for a mass casualty incident, but specifically this drill is a requirement so that we can have the Blue Angels perform."

"Our job is to go in and save lives and property, and prevent further damage to the base and personnel," said Cupell.

In addition to base personnel, other units from the El Centro and Imperial Valley Fire Department, the Yuma Search and Rescue Team and the Border Patrol's Special Trauma Rescue Unit also participated.



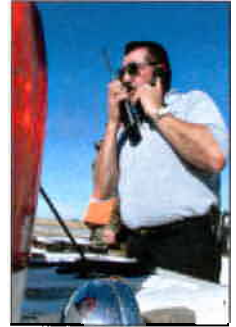
Members of the NAF El Centro Fire Department arrive to put out a simulated aircraft on fire.

"We are the EMT unit for the Border Patrol. We are also on call for the county, so in a incident like this, we would also be alerted," said Michael O'conner, a senior border patrol agent with the Calexico station.

"We are from the Yuma Air Station. During the air show we are on

standby to respond to any type of incidents," said Capt. Glenn Lindstrom, a helicopter pilot with the search and rescue team. "Our job is to transport patients via Brawley or Yuma depending on the type of incident. Ideally we take one or two patients, but we can carry up to six," Lindstrom added.

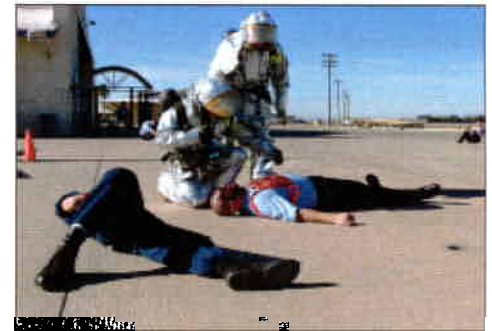
According to Cupell, even though the incident was pre-staged, once the different units were on scene it was treated like the real thing. "We are required to perform two mass casualty drills a year," Cupell said. "We need to make sure our operational readiness is up to speed."



Incident commander, Ronnie Valenzuela, is responsible for coordinating the entire operation.



A helicopter from Yuma Air Station arrives to transport victims if needed.



Fire fighters inspect injured Sailors and identify those who need to be attended first.

## Saving Water

By Bill Kagele  
Water programs Manager



### For Every Room in the House

- Repair leaky faucets, indoors, and out. A leaky faucet can use up to 4,000 gallons per month.
- Install faucet aerators. These inexpensive devices can reduce water use up to sixty percent.

#### In the Kitchen:

- When cooking, peel and clean vegetables in a large bowl of water instead of under the running tap.
- When washing dishes, soak dirty dishes in the basin, then rinse them off.
- Run full-load dishwashers to

save fifteen gallons per load.

- When buying a new dishwasher, select one with a "light-wash" option. Newer models use twenty percent less water than older ones.

#### In the Bathroom:

- Take short showers instead of baths. Showers use an average of five to seven gallons per minute, three times less than the water used to take a bath.
- Install a low-flow showerhead.
- Turn off water to brush teeth, shave, and soap in the shower.
- Repair leaky toilets to save more than fifty gallons of water per day. Add twelve drops of

food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl one hour later, the unit is leaking.

- Install a toilet displacement device and save five to seven gallons per flush.

- When buying a new toilet, select a low-flush model that uses less than one and a half gallons of water per flush.

#### On Wash Day:

- When purchasing a new washing machine, buy a water-saving model that can be adjusted to load-size and has a "suds-saving" option.
- Run full-loads only.

#### Water Conservation Outdoors:

- Set mower blades on a high setting (two to three inch grass

length as opposed to golf-course short) to provide natural ground shade and promote water retention by the soil.

- Water lawn and garden in the morning when evaporation is lowest.
- Place indigenous species suited to your area and save as much as fifty-four percent of the water used to care for outdoor plants.
- When washing your car, turn off the hose between rinses.
- Sweep down decks and driveways instead of hosing them down.

For more information on how to save water, contact Bill Kagele at Ext. 2532.



# NAF receives new police vehicles

By IT2 Darryl Howlett  
Staff Writer

Four shiny, new police vehicles are now patrolling the streets of Naval Air Facility El Centro. The vehicles sport the latest technology to assist security personnel in keeping residents safe on base.

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Petty Officer Daniel Eckstrom, said the four units have a \$150,000 price tag between them. "One of the vehicles will be for our K9 unit, and one for the watch commander," he said. MA1 Eckstrom said the high price tag for the vehicles, all 2002 Ford Explorers, includes the latest police vehicle technology.

"The vehicles have

new light bars, a whole new control system, and safety cages," he said. "The (military working dog) unit also has a cage for the dog and a bail out door remotely for the dog. The vehicles themselves are actual police vehicles with heavy-duty police suspension, heavy-duty electronics to withstand the wear and tear when the electronic gear is running."

MA1 Eckstrom also said all four vehicles are equipped with shotgun racks. Security received the patrol vehicles in November before sending them to San Diego to be equipped with the various gadgets. "We received two of the vehicles back before Christmas and two recently arrived January 10," he said.

Eckstrom said only



OS1 Anthony Gulbis, AK3 Estela Nickels, and MA1(SW/AW) Richard Connors are getting ready to go on patrol in one of the new police vehicles.

those personnel who have passed the Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) could drive the vehicles.

Lt. Michael Conn,

Security Officer for NAF El Centro, said that within the next six months they were also expecting to receive a new Humvee.

## Holtville Carrot Festival Parade

Come and see the  
NAF El Centro

Color Guard lead the parade followed by:

### Captain Crane

who will ride in the A-6 Intruder  
led by STRIKE FIGHTER

OINC LT Braunbeck



Saturday February 2

## Change made to Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)

On 28 Dec 01, President Bush signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2002 into law (Public Law 107-107) that changed who is entitled to receive an active duty death Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity.

The new law provides that an SBP annuity be paid (retroactive to 10 Sep 01) to the spouse, dependent children, or former spouse (if court ordered) of any active duty member who dies in the line of duty regardless of years of service.

This "closes the gap" on a long-standing disparity that limited payment of an SBP annuity only to the families of retirement-eligible members who died on active duty while family members of non-retirement-eligible members who died on active duty were not eligible.

More information on active duty SBP coverage can be found at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/SBP/>



# The busiest tower below the sea

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez

Staff Writer

Because of the beautiful weather and clear visibility through-out the year, the Air Traffic Control Tower at Naval Air Facility El Centro is one of the busiest runways in the country. With more than 162,000 flight operations last year, it is the Navy's busiest Air Traffic Control Tower on the West Coast.

Even though it operates with no radar, they use binoculars and radio to launch and land planes, it operates like any other tower that is fully equipped. "It is one of the last Visual Flight Rules (VFR) towers remaining in the Navy system," said Jerry Fernand, Facility Watch Supervisor at NAF El Centro. "It can handle every fleet known requirement out there. Because 99 percent of the time we have beautiful weather, which does not require radar, we handle more than anybody else with a lot less."

It takes four qualified personnel to run the tower. The first person is the Tower Watch Supervisor who runs the airfield and is in over-all control of the tower. The second person is the Local Controller who controls the aircraft flying within a five-mile radius of the airfield. The third person is the Ground Controller who controls all ground vehicles, fire trucks, fuel trucks, and the aircraft on the ground. The fourth person is the Flight Data and Clearance Delivery Controller. This person takes care of all the paper work that is generated in the tower.

According to Fernand it takes an average of 24 months for a Sailor out of "A" School to qualify to operate the tower, and 6 months for senior Sailors.

Photos by JO2 Carmichael Yopez



This is the view tower operators have from the tower.



One of the more interesting facts about the tower is that it stands 43 feet below sea level. This, combined with the flat surface of the region, makes landing on the flight line very similar to that of an aircraft carrier.

Besides being the winter home for the Blue Angels, almost all initial weapons training for the F-14 and the FA-18 aircraft is conducted here. "Whether they practice air bombing, or take-off and landings, this is one of the favorite air fields for pilots," said Cdr. Pete Hayes, Operations Officer. "There is no major maintenance performed here so pilots enjoy the fact they only come here to fly."



Top left AC3 Brandy Hoskins is clearing a pilot for take off. Above, Jerry Fernand, Facility Watch Supervisor is pointing at a group of jets lining up on the flight line ready for take off.



## Spotlight Civilian



**Gilberto Sanchez**  
Lead Cook, NAF Galley

**Hometown:** Mexicali Mx.

**Enjoys most about job:**

"I enjoy cooking. It makes me feel good when Sailors come up and tell you the food was good."

**Hobbies:** "I like to go out with my family and go to the movies."

**Time at NAF:** Four years

**Favorite Restaurant:** "Denny's, their steak dinner."

**Outlook on Life:** "Set your goals and meet them."

## Did You Know?

- NAF El Centro has a total annual economic impact on the Imperial Valley of over \$15 Million.
- On average the Imperial Valley receives 3 inches of annual rainfall.
- NAF has approximately 250 Active duty Navy personnel
- 15 mph is the speed limit in residential areas on base.
- More Sunshine is recorded in the Imperial Valley than any other area in the United States.



# Best kept secret on base

## Navy Lodge receives rave reviews...

By IT2 Darryl Howlett  
Staff Writer

The Navy Lodge at Naval Air Facility El Centro is receiving rave reviews from patrons staying at the modular units. Karen McGarry, who is staying at The Navy Lodge while her husband is settling in a new job on base, said the units remind her of home. "It's been real nice here," she said. "I like the size of (the units). This is better than being couped up in a hotel room. My kids have room to run in. It's more like home."

Latisha Howlett stayed in the units in December and early January. "As a mother of three children and a wife of a recalled reservist, I enjoyed (the units) mostly because everything was close and because of the service provided by the Navy

Lodge," she said. "(Housekeeper) Elena provided outstanding customer service many times. She served us with a smile."

Navy Exchange Manager Jo Ann Ellen said she's proud the Navy Lodge has received positive comments from its patrons. "The Navy Lodge on base also received an outstanding review in 2001 from the Navy Lodge Headquarters in Virginia," she said.

Dianne Foley, supervisor at the NEX Jetmart, said the Navy Lodge provides various services to customers including constant update in furniture, queen and full-size bedrooms, dishes, cable TV, VCR, and a washer and dryer. All for the low price of \$45 a night.

"Our housekeepers, Teresita Snovelle and Elena Lewis, keep (the units) in immaculate condition," she



At the Navy Lodge, patrons will find all the commodities of home.

said. Ellen said she would like more personnel to make utilization of the units on base and remind their families and friends about the benefits of staying at the Navy Lodge.

Allen said personnel on base could also take advantage of low fares at the Navy Lodge at NAS North Island, when Sailors and dependents are in the San Diego area.

Active duty personnel can reserve a unit anytime. Retired personnel must reserve rooms 30 days in advance on a "first come, first serve" basis.

## NAF El Centro Running Team



Come support our Running Team:

BU2 Jerimiah Sperry  
BUCA Simon Gibson  
SPC Rorey Nichols and  
SPC Jose Gomes  
They will represent NAF El Centro, Saturday February 2 at the Holtville Carrot Festival relay race. For more information contact Laurie Bauer at Ext 2481

Sponsored By  
MWR

# One Pint of Blood

January 18, NAF Sailors and civilians participated in the American Red Cross Blood Drive held at the Base Gym.

Photos by JO2 Carmichael Yepetz



Ashley Cleary from the Resource Management Office is getting a small pinch in her middle finger to test for Iron levels before donating blood.



SK1 Francisco Diego from Supply is squeezing the red ball to keep the flow of blood going.



Above, a needle is being inserted in to YN1 Michael Martin's arm to draw blood. Below, AZ2 Richard North from Strike has finished answering a questionnaire and is ready to donate to the Red Cross.





# Color Guard Participates in Olympic Torch Passing Ceremony

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez

Staff Writer

The Naval Air Facility El Centro Color Guard will now be part of Olympic history. They were called to perform in a ceremony to honor the passing of the Olympic flame through Jacumba, Ca., a small community located 45 miles East of San Diego January 14.

The flame originated in Olympia, Greece, November 19 and was flown to Atlanta December 4, where it initiated a 13,500-mile journey through the United States that will end on February 8 in Salt Lake City, Utah, for the 2002 Winter Olympic opening ceremonies.

"During the National Anthem, the Olympic Torch was in front of us and the entire crowd was looking at the Color Guard. I always feel proud during a ceremony," said Storekeeper 1st Class Francisco Diego, Color Guard Supervisor. "But this one had an extra special meaning, because it was a once in a life time event. I got to see what other people will only see on TV. It was a great feeling."

"It really sends a positive message to our community and our children," said Bill Cudog, School

Principal for Jacumba Elementary School where the small ceremony took place.

"Having a chance for the children to see this, I think just adds to the whole idea of a connectiveness of our country, especially during this time. It allows the kids to know what the Olympics are all about. Us coming together," Cudog concluded.

Five torchbearers were chosen to carry the flame through Jacumba where the torch rested for 15 minutes before

getting back on the road again in route to San Diego. Prior to the torch arriving from Yuma, the torchbearers were given a brief where they were told about the significance of being selected as a torchbearer. "There are no words to express the overwhelming feeling of pride you are going to feel when you are out there carrying the torch," said Lindsey Givens, Shuttle Hostess for the Olympics. "The flame is a symbol of hope and peace to everybody. Not just Americans, but everybody in the world," Givens added.

Alan Lerchbacker, one of the torchbearers from Pasadena, Ca., said it was an honor to have been selected. "It's really a big deal. I was totally amazed that I was selected. It's a real Honor."

Even though it has become a routine for the Color Guard to participate in different ceremonies and special events, this one has left an unforgettable imprint in their mind. "When I hear about the arrival of the flame to the 2002 Olympics, I can say I formed part of that journey. It will always stay in my mind," said Diego.



Photos by JO2 Carmichael Yopez

Top left: The NAF El Centro Color Guard presents Colors during the ceremony. Above: Lindsey Givens, of the U.S. Olympic Committee explains the significance of the Olympic flame. Two local Jacumba residents brought the torch to the local elementary school.

**Hometown:** Jackson, Mississippi.

**Enjoys most about job:**

"Making my coworkers laugh."

**Hobbies:** "Collecting sports cards and playing Chess." Arvin speaks Spanish, German, Korean, Tagalog, and French"

**Outlook on life:**

"Have a positive attitude no matter what you are doing. Truly, Truly, stay positive."

**Looking forward to:**

"Returning to a normal life style."

**Favorite Restaurant:**

"Mexicali Tacos (Carne Asada Tacos)."

**Time at NAF:**

He was recalled Sep. 27, 2001 in support of Operation Noble Eagle. He is here on month to month orders.

## Spotlight Sailor



STG2 Arvin Payton  
Security Dept.

There's a reason for the blue container?



Recycle

It's simple and easy

Housing residents curbside pick-up is Tuesdays 7 to 9 a.m.



# All Hands to Quarters



AO3 Julie Maurer was selected as Junior Sailor of the month for November. AOAN Brandy Watson was selected as December's JOSM.



AO2 Jonathan Rainey, AO2 Michael Finney, and SK1 Francisco Diego were awarded Good Conduct Medals.

After congratulating the awardees, Capt. Crane emphasized to Sailors and civilians how the busiest time of the year was coming especially for Security during the Air show.

"You realize in only 44 days we are going to put the first air show of the year for any flight demonstration team performed on a military base since 911.

To say that every military base in America has their eyes upon us is a understatement. It's going to take a little longer to get on base during the air show this year, because we are going to handle security different. One thing I can tell you right now is that security will not allow coolers, or back packs for security reasons only.

The guys from NCIS have reemphasized that the terrorist threat and the criminal threat for this area is still negligible and is still very low, but who would of ever thought 911 would happen the way it did. So we do have to be careful. It's going to be more work for

everybody, but even with that said, on 9 March, take the time, look up in the air and see what is going on.

We have a great show planned this year. I want you to come out and enjoy it even though we are going to be in a working status."

On another note the Captain also talked about the importance of speed limits on base especially in our residential areas.

"We have young children over there in housing, they come out and they stand on the corner waiting on the buses, and they like to come out there and play. We have always projected the housing areas for NAF El Centro as a safe place for our young children, so pay attention to where the stop signs are and what the speed limit signs say."

The Skipper ended by asking Sailors to take advantage of their time here at NAF by furthering their education while they can.



## Six More

At a reenlistment ceremony January 22, Construction Mechanic 2nd Class (SCW) Rafael Navarro, a native of El Centro, reenlisted for six years. He served for three years here

and will be transferring to Naples, Italy in July. "I had a very good time here. It was very challenging, but I can't wait to get to Italy," he said.

Before transferring to Italy, Navarro will attend the Law Enforcement Academy in San Antonio, Texas.

Petty Officer Navarro will be accompanied by his wife Sarai and their daughter Genesis. "I know it's going



to be a good experience. The important thing is that we are going together and I am confident we are going to have a good time," she said.



New check-ins from left to right AEAN Patrick Pinan from Burlington Vt., (SFWPMU), AOAA Cheryl McNulty from New Jersey, (Weapons), AOAR Autumn Hoffman, from Broadus, Tx., (Weapons), Michelle Christie, Brick, New Jersey, (DOD Police), and PH3(AW) Greg Spalding from Jackson Fla., (Security).